

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

President Trump's budget threatens to end specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth who contact 988, the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Ending this mental health support for youth in distress would devastate a vital resource for some of our nation's most vulnerable young people. This shortsighted and dangerous plan undermines 988's ability to provide tailored support for a population with a higher risk of suicide and will have lethal consequences if enacted. Surely you can agree that every American deserves the resources necessary to prevent suicide and self-injury, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

America has a youth mental health crisis, and LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers. The 988 hotline for LGBTQ+ youth has recently received an average of 2,100 contacts per day and, since 2022, it has received over 1.3 million calls, text, and chats. America's mental health crisis affects every community and every family knows someone who has experienced distress. Mental health crises do not recognize partisan differences, and this is why support for 988 and its specialized services has always been firmly bipartisan.

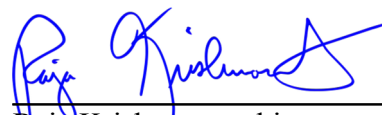
When Congress established the 988 lifeline, signed into law by President Trump during his first term, we intended it to be a resource for *any* American experiencing mental distress. To a young person feeling alone and scared, 988 is truly a lifeline. The specialized services it is able to provide to individuals with a higher risk of suicidality, such as LGBTQ+ youth and veterans, are especially vital to provide high-risk groups with custom support. Consideration of cutting off this life-saving resource to vulnerable youth and young adults goes against best practices in suicide prevention.

We urge that you scrap this ill-advised plan. Our nation's children deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,



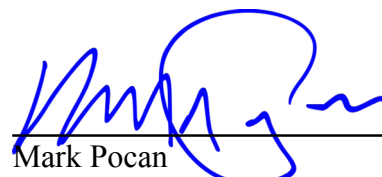
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



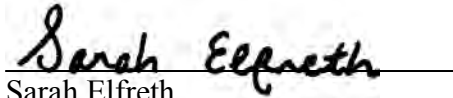
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress




Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



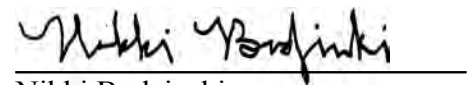
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress




Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress




Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



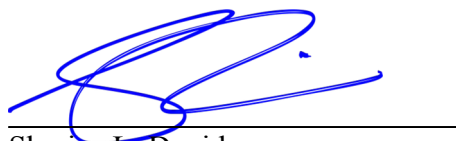
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



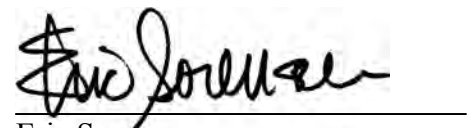
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress




Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



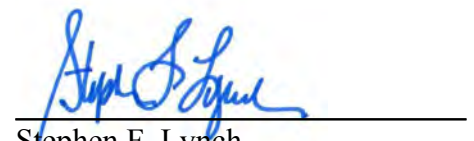
Sharice L. Davids
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Eric Sorensen
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Dan Goldman
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



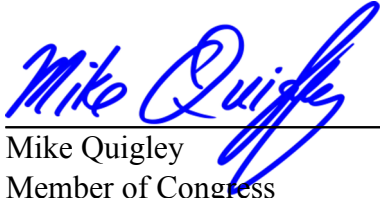
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



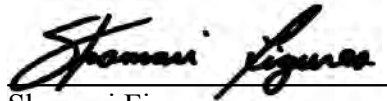
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



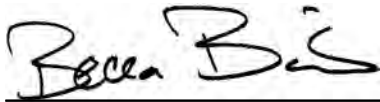
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



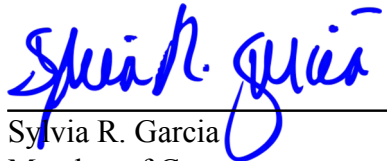
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



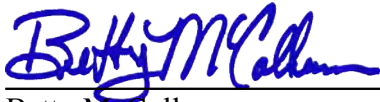
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



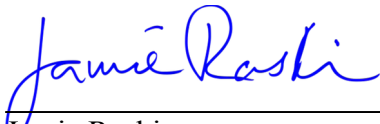
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



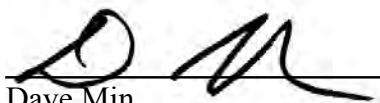
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



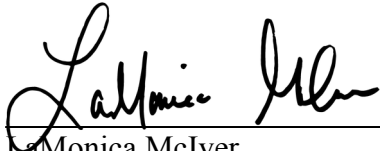
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



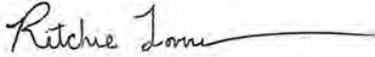
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



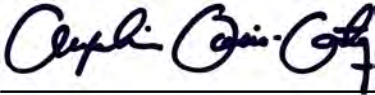
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



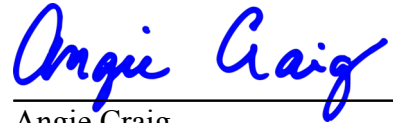
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



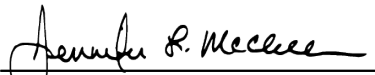
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



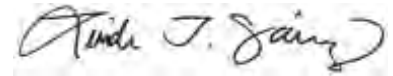
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



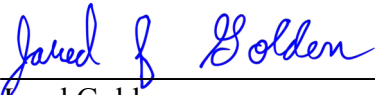
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



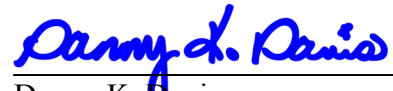
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



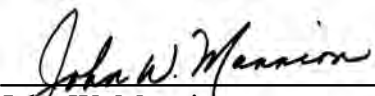
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



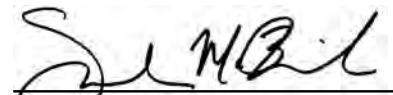
Jared Golden
Member of Congress



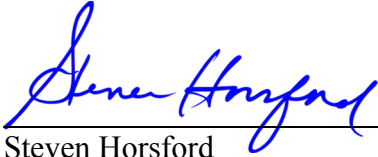
Danny K. Davis
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John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth Congressional
District



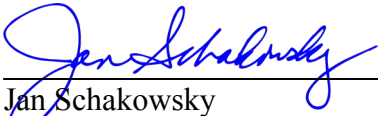
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



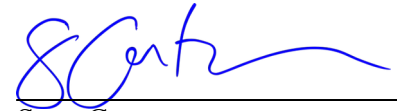
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



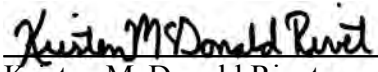
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



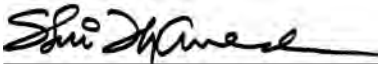
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



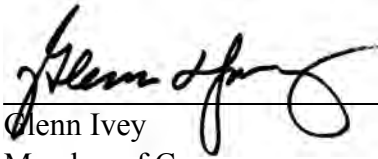
George Latimer
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



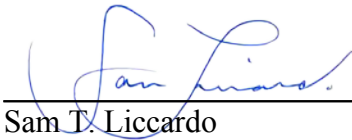
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



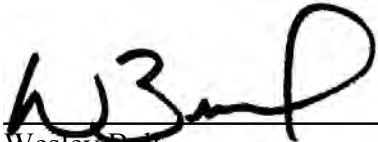
Jared Huffman
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Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
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Wesley Bell
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Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



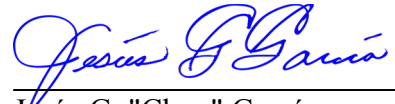
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



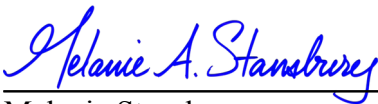
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



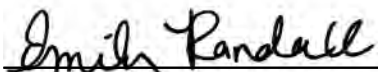
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



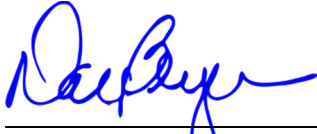
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



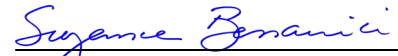
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



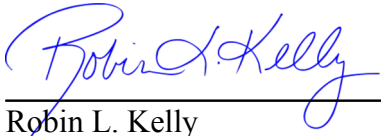
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



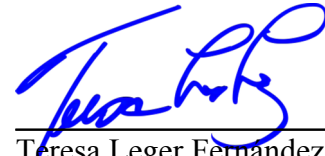
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



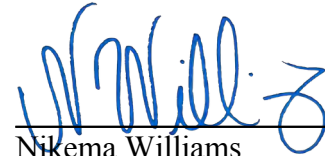
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



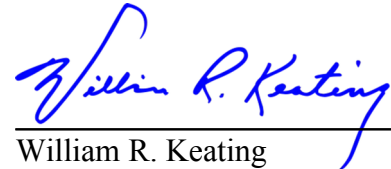
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



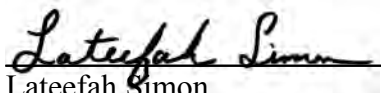
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



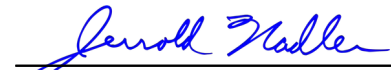
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



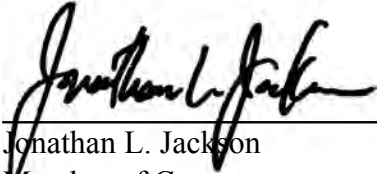
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



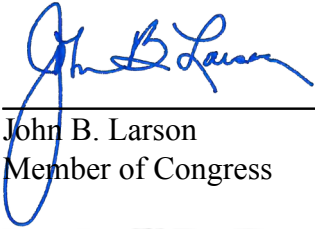
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



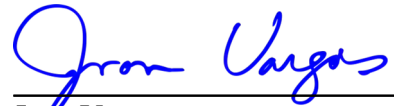
Jonathan L. Jackson
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J. Luis Correa
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John B. Larson
Member of Congress



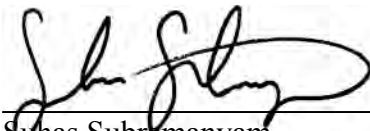
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



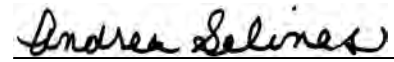
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



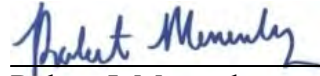
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



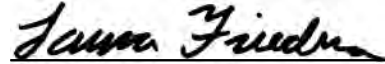
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



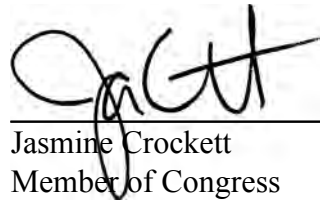
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



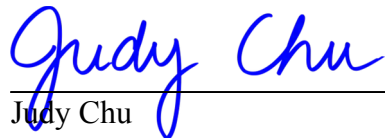
Bradley Scott Schneider
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Jimmy Panetta
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Gabe Amo
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